

## **Information on Applying for Vermont Licensure as an Audiologist or Speech Language Pathologist**

Legislative changes require that as of October, 2004, all audiologists and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) must carry a clinical license issued by the Vermont Department of Education (26 V.S.A. Chapter 87 and State Board Rule 5436). In addition, those working in schools must carry an Educational SLP endorsement on the clinical license. The same legislative changes give currently licensed SLPs until June 30, 2008 to make the switch to the clinical license. A currently licensed SLP may make the switch any time before that date, however. Please read through the following information to decide which category of requirements applies to you.

### **Speech Language Pathologists Practicing in Vermont Schools and Currently Licensed as Educators in Vermont**

You may continue to work in schools under your current educator license until it expires or until July 1, 2008, whichever comes sooner. At that time, you will need to apply for the clinical Speech Language Pathologist license (which will replace the educator license as your “base” license) and for the Educational Speech Language Pathologist endorsement. (You will not need to requalify for the Educational SLP endorsement.) Licensing Regulation 5436.2 states that you must meet the following qualifications:

“(a) Applicants for Audiology or Speech Language Pathology licenses shall submit an application to the Office of Licensing and Professional Standards along with payment of the specified fee and evidence of the following qualifications:

- (1) A masters degree or doctoral degree in audiology or speech language pathology from an educational institution approved by the American Speech Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) or the American Board of Audiology (ABA);
- (2) Completion of a period of post-graduate professional training, the length and content of which shall comply with standards established by ASHA or ABA; and
- (3) Passing scores on the Praxis II examination or other examination in audiology or speech language pathology selected by the State Board pursuant to Rules 5240 et seq.

(b) Applicants who qualify for a current Certificate of Clinical Competence from ASHA or for board certification in Audiology from ABA shall be deemed to have met the above requirements.”

Please note that if you held a VT educator license and endorsement as a Speech Language Pathologist on July 1, 2003 and had been practicing for five or more years under this endorsement, licensing regulations state that you “shall not be required to meet the Clinical Fellowship Year Requirement [5436.2 (a) (2)].”

Please also note that you are not required to wait until expiration of your current educator license to make the switch to the new clinical license. You may do so sooner if you wish.

## Transitioning to the Clinical License

1. If you are an educator who holds an SLP endorsement on an educator license, then you will need to convert the “base” license to a clinical license before June 30, 2008. If this transition is taking place during your renewal year, then you should use the renewal forms that we provide to make the transition. You do not need to have your Local Standards Board sign the white renewal form or review any professional development that would ordinarily be required for a renewal. Instead, submit the white renewal form, the pink tax sheet, and the disclosure form directly to this office. You should also submit \$140 and a copy of your Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCCs) or equivalent credentials (see above). You do not need to submit evidence of professional development credits or a portfolio in order to convert to the clinical license.
2. If the transition is taking place “early,” (before the year of expiration), then you may send in your CCCs and the \$140 fee directly to the Licensing Office. (We can credit \$35 towards this fee for each school year remaining on the educator license). You should also contact this office for the “pink sheet” (aka Tax/Child Support/Unemployment Statement) and the disclosure form.
3. IPDPs are not required for SLP relicensure. However, you may wish to continue to complete an IPDP. Individuals who wish to complete IPDPs should continue to work with their Local Standards Board to review and approve those IPDPs. ***Please Note: If you have other endorsements on your educator license, then you should follow the normal renewal process for those endorsements.***

Once the transition has been made, you will receive a clinical license with an Educational SLP endorsement on it.

## Current School-Based Speech Language Pathologists Who Wish to Work Outside of Schools

Your educator license and SLP endorsement will enable you to continue your work in schools until expiration of the license or July 1, 2008, whichever comes sooner. However, if you wish to work in any setting other than schools, you must apply for the new clinical Speech Language Pathologist license according to the directions below. Your educator license will not “cover you” for private practice work.

### All New Applicants for Clinical Audiologist or Speech Language Pathologist Licensure:

The requirements of 5436.2 (a) and (b) above apply to all new applicants for either audiologist or speech language pathology licensure. In addition, those individuals wishing to work in schools must meet the requirements for the Educational SLP endorsement. The endorsement requires passage of the Praxis I examinations in reading, writing, and math and study of the areas outlined in the Educational SLP transcript review worksheet.

Provisional licenses, good for two years only, may be issued to those individuals who have completed all of the requirements above except the Clinical Fellowship Year [5436.2 (a) (2)].

Please note that although you must apply for licensure by October 1, 2004, if you were employed in “private practice,” (meaning any type of practice outside of the public schools) on July 1, 2003, you have until July 1, 2008 to meet requirements 5436.2 (a) (1) and (2). To qualify for this temporary waiver, you must submit with your licensing application a notarized affidavit attesting to the location and nature of your private practice as of July 1, 2003.

Application forms, including the Educational SLP endorsement worksheet, are available for downloading from this site.

## **Fees**

The new clinical SLP and Audiologist licenses are good for three years and cost the following:

\$35.00	License processing fee (one time fee)
\$35.00/year	Annual licensing fee (\$105.00 for the three-year license)
\$140	Total

## **Maintenance and Renewal of Clinical SLP and Audiology Licenses**

Once you hold a clinical license and Educational SLP endorsement, if applicable, you can maintain it by showing 2 credits of professional development every 3 years. If you carry the Educational SLP endorsement, at least one of the two credits must address the Educational SLP competencies (these may be found at [http://www.state.vt.us/educ/new/html/licensing/regulations\\_endorsements.html#slp](http://www.state.vt.us/educ/new/html/licensing/regulations_endorsements.html#slp)). You should send documentation of the professional development to this office and you may also request pre-approval of professional development from this office.

## **Further Info**

If you have questions about SLP licensure or relicensure, please contact Emily Graves at [emilygraves@education.state.vt.us](mailto:emilygraves@education.state.vt.us).